



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Paktya Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Paktya from January 2002 - June 2011: \$211.9 million

Estimated population: 491,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Gardez

Note: U.S.-led PRT



The mountainous province of Paktya borders Pakistan's north Waziristan and Kurram regions, and there is ease of movement in the border areas. Its main sources of revenue come from forestry and the mining of chromites and natural gas. The mainly Pashtun population also cultivates grain crops and tends apple, walnut, and apricot orchards. The region continues to experience political unrest, which has hindered development efforts. While the Afghan central government has set up an authority in the province, local commanders still retain most of the power in the region, limiting the reach of the national government.

AGRICULTURE

Goal: Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

Summary: USAID focuses on preparing farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through veterinary services, irrigation, and training.

Current Activities:

- Apply the grape value-chain approach to improve product quality and subsequently increasing the marketing grapes in new international markets
- Train Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods
- Provide technical assistance to orchard beneficiaries in order to enhance their capacity for orchard management

Accomplishments:

- Provided improved access to irrigation through constructing a dam in Omna District and building an irrigation canal and flood control/protection walls
- Planted 656,000 trees and cuttings
- Established 35 woodlots
- Trained 1,800 farmers
- Converted 30 hectares of land under improved natural resource management as a model for land management



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Paktya Province

- Increased sales of legal farm and non-farm products by \$58,500
- Created 43 full-time jobs
- Established one private full-service AgDepot farm store that provides agriculture supplies and services to support key legal crops and animal health
- Trained para-veterinarians and established one self-sustaining veterinary field unit.
- Facilitated the integration of water resource management into the rehabilitation of upper watersheds and natural resource management activities
- Established 191 ha of orchards
- Provided agricultural training to strengthen commercial agricultural opportunities, increase farmers' agricultural knowledge, and promote direct linkages between food brokers and farmers
- Enhanced women's self-sufficiency in food production through training programs on how to grow kitchen gardens
- Contributed to the development of a rangeland law
- Supported the provincial Kuchi Shura
- Established 691 hectares of new orchards and provided training on land preparation, layout and planting techniques for 1,726 farmers
- Established 50 kitchen garden plots to enhance woman's role in food production- specifically the development of their skills and the subsequent economic contribution to their family needs
- Established 25 poultry units to enhance woman's role in food production

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

Goal: Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality of public services to Afghan citizens. Support independent media institutions and advocacy groups.

Summary: USAID supports democracy and governance in Paktya Province through activities including legislative strengthening, electoral support, justice sector reform, media, and civil-society development.

Current Activities:

- Provide capacity-building training to civil-society organizations
- Support a radio station
- Provide training to the provincial council and provincial governors, which improves professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- Provide assistance to improve the ability of the mayor and municipal staff to respond to citizen needs and to provide essential public services such as power, water, sanitation, safe roads, and waste management
- Train provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy
- Create district-level governance councils under the auspices of the Independent Directorate for Local Government Supporting accountable municipal governance, improved municipal delivery of public services, and improved generation and management of municipal revenue in provincial capitals
- Provide the provincial governor with operational resources and money for community outreach and micro projects to support his needs and serve as incentive to develop
- Provide institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations

Accomplishments:



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Paktya Province

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to 32 judges in the province
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the new Afghanistan Court Administration System, a case-management system that improves the courts' ability to manage cases and provide due process, leading to more effective and transparent rule of law
- Supported justice sector development through a one-month Foundation Training Program for four sitting judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for seven judicial candidates, providing judges access to the tools necessary to officiate over the courts
- Assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a new ethics code for all judges and provided training for all of Afghanistan's judges in the contents and importance of the code
- Constructed a provincial Court of Appeals and an administration building for prosecutors and Ministry of Justice personnel
- Promoted legal and human rights awareness, including women's rights, through public education campaigns in a variety of media, thereby making information accessible even to those who cannot read
- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and sharia teachers, and capacity building for a women's shura (council)
- Provided grants to a woman's education center and a peace-building foundation to promote peace, reconciliation, and gender equality
- Supported the 2008 voter registration exercise, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the elections, and ultimately helped conduct the 2009/2010 elections
- Provided capacity-building training to 10 civil-society organizations
- Established a radio station
- Coordinated, educated and directed the Provincial council and provincial government representatives to participate in the Afghan national budget execution and program implementation workshop
- Awarded 23 grants
- Trained 458 civil servants in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal: Create a developed business climate that enables private investment, job creation, and financial independence.

Summary: USAID's economic growth program helps the Afghan government develop sound economic governance and works with the private sector to stimulate investment and business opportunities. USAID partners with Afghans and the Afghan government to attract investment, generate sustainable employment, and expand market linkages. USAID promotes economic development in Paktya Province through automating banking services, expanding access to telecommunications, and supporting business associations.

Current Activities:

- Support the Ministry of Finance's provincial budgeting team and provincial budgeting officers based in the Jalalabad training hub, to conduct budgeting training programs and provide technical assistance to provincial officials in preparing annual budget estimates

Accomplishments:



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Paktya Province

- Installed six district communications network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services to district government officials and the public
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System, provided communications technology and training for bank staff, and expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) that operates as the paying agent for the government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments (services such as these increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private-sectors)
- Promoted economic related information and data collection activities to build a regional economic research and analytical function introduced in DAB zone offices
- Implemented DAB zone economist function in southeast zone office focused on preparing the ability to provide competent and timely economic research and analysis
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Paktya Mustofiat, which has dramatically reduced the processing times needed to organize Afghan government revenue receipts, produce revenue reports, and upload into the consolidated Ministry of Finance Financial Management System
- Trained 39 Paktya officials in effective planning and budget estimate preparation to increase their participation in the national budget process by developing inputs to better reflect local needs and priorities
- Trained customs staff on declarations, customs law, data entry, and preparation of trade statistics to build a professional, modern customs authority
- Reorganized land titling documentation at the Makhzan court register with new cost-efficient technology so that Afghans can more easily access their property documents (before the reorganization, the land administration office was unable to properly document land transfers, provide proof of ownership documents, or prevent the registration of fraudulent deeds)
- Supported 56 small and medium enterprises through business management training
- Provided grants to one association and training to two more associations to strengthen Afghanistan's business community, facilitate business growth, and enable associations to serve its members through training and business registration assistance
- Established the Gardez Apple Growers Association through a grant and technical assistance
- Trained and provided work opportunities to 80 students to date under a capacity-building internship program to improve the professional skills of future business and government leaders
- Promoted economic expansion and rural enterprise development through micro-credit lending
- Disbursed more than \$144,200 in medium-sized loans through USAID-funded financial institutions
- Supported the revenue reconciliation team of the Paktya Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center
- Assisted DAB southeast zone office in the implementation of core central bank functions, to include financial sector supervision and risk management, and accounting and financial management
- Promoted improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation

EDUCATION

Goal: Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher training and increased availability of primary school textbooks; support community-base education; improve the quality of higher education; and improve the livelihoods of urban and rural communities through increased literacy and employability instruction.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Paktya Province

Summary: USAID supports educational improvements in Paktya through three national education projects. USAID has provided support to local communities through capacity strengthening in partnerships with non-governmental organizations and Ministry of Education personnel, provided literacy and vocational schools training, printed textbooks, trained education faculty professors, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

Current Activities:

- Support 111 community-based classes to expand access and quality of education in areas where there are no formal schools
- Support 30 emergency community-based classes to expand access and quality of education to internally displaced populations
- Offer the 18-month program in literacy and productive skills for youth and adults
- Work with the faculty of education to improve the teaching skills of professors through training in pedagogy, subject knowledge, computer literacy, English, institutional development, leadership, management, administration, professional attitudes, and teacher standards
- Sponsor education opportunities in Afghanistan and abroad for professors (one faculty member is attending a leadership study tour in Bangladesh and another is attending an Intensive English certificate course in Singapore)
- Continue textbook support

Accomplishments:

- Integrated 37 community based and 24 emergency community based education classes into the Ministry of Education system
- Established 179 literacy centers (92 for women)
- Constructed 29 schools
- Printed more than 1.2 million textbooks
- Introduced a teacher standards program and a standards working committee for assessment and validation
- Established a professional development center at Paktya University

HEALTH

Goal: Improve the access to and quality of health services and train individuals, families, and communities on modern health promotion practices.

Summary: USAID's principal health investments in Paktya Province preventative healthcare come through support for the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and the Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS), including technical assistance to the Provincial Health Office and implementing non-governmental organizations, pre-service and refresher training for community midwives and community health workers, and the provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

Current Activities:

- Support 32 health facilities to implement BPHS and EPHS
- Procure and distribute high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives
- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through private sector outlets
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in seven sentinel sites



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Paktya Province

- Implement the Integrated Child Survival Package at the community level in Gardiz and Sayed Karam districts, including growth monitoring and promotion, community case management, and newborn care
- Support full implementation of tuberculosis activities including initial and refresher trainings on the treatment of tuberculosis, upgrading lab facilities, strengthening lab microscopy, and introducing or scaling-up community based initiatives such as community awareness of tuberculosis and treatment of tuberculosis by community health workers
- Distribute community awareness materials for tuberculosis, diagnostic, treatment and training packages for tuberculosis including a database information system and maintenance equipment for the database
- Support the Provincial Public Health Office and the Provincial Public Health Coordination Committee to strengthen the technical, leadership, and management capacity of the provincial health team to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS
- Implementing a pediatric hospital improvement initiative in Gardez Hospital to improve children's health at the hospital level
- Construct a 100-bed hospital in Gardez City
- Establish provincial quality assurance committee to ensure skilled healthcare providers
- Fund a province-wide community-based midwifery education program to reduce infant and maternal mortality
- Provide training on reproductive health and family planning to enable religious leaders to provide accurate information to communities
- Increase the technical and managerial skills of healthcare workers through refresher training for doctors, nurses, and lab technicians
- Fund province-wide Community Health Worker pre-service and refresher training

Accomplishments:

- Trained 14,800 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare
- Procured and distributed high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives valued at one million dollars
- Graduated 72 midwives from the community-based midwifery training program
- Trained provincial health officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: Improve infrastructure to create licit economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.

Summary: The infrastructure program in Paktya Province focuses on the improvement of roads, water, and sanitation facilities while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the local economy using locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Maintain approximately 80 km of provincial roads while strengthening the capacity of the provincial Road Maintenance Unit to implement road maintenance through Afghan contractors
- Reconstruct the 101 km Gardez to Khost Road that links more than 60 villages along the Pakistan border in order to facilitate access to markets, encourage licit agricultural production, and promote regional trade with Pakistan



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Paktya Province

- Upgrade 12 km of the provincial road from Hassan Khel to Ster Village and 3 km of the provincial road from Chamkani to Jani Khel to extend economic opportunities and social services to rural communities
- Improve 10 km of the Qasem Khel-Ali Khel-Berkaray Road Maintain the Kabul to Gardez Road while strengthening the capacity of the Provincial Road Maintenance Unit of the Ministry of Public Works to manage road maintenance by Afghan contractors
- Assist the Gardez water utility to improve its operational efficiency and cost recovery so that it can provide a potable water supply to its customers in a sustainable manner
- Improve health and sanitation through the construction of new water supply systems
- Assess the feasibility of rehabilitating an existing hydropower facility in Gardez to provide electricity to more than 12,000 residents

Accomplishments:

- Completed 136 new wells in Gardez and the design of water supply facilities in Chamkani and Zurmat
- Constructed or refurbished 57 wells to increase access to a clean potable water supply, improving the health of people, livestock, and crops
- Rehabilitated the province's sanitation system and upgraded the Gardez water supply system, improving hygiene and access to safe water for Paktya residents
- Improved the 36 km Kabul to Gardez Road to connect residents to other parts of the country
- Increased the capacity of the Paktya Department of Power and Energy by expanding its office space, enabling staff to work more efficiently
- Improved the road that connects Gardez to Ghazni near the Ring Road to connect Paktya Province to the rest of the country and facilitate the local population's access to markets, health services and education

STABILIZATION

Goal: Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium to long-term development activities.

Summary: USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community development projects.

Current Activities:

- Support community-level labor-intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment (wages earned through these public and community works projects enable the poor to purchase food for themselves and their families)
- Conduct vocational training for vulnerable groups such as women, refugees and the physically disabled in remote and volatile district

Accomplishments:

- Improved government service delivery through the placement of technical advisors in ten key government offices, providing mentoring, on-the-job training, and capacity building skills
- Improved interaction between communities and the district government in Zurmat District by bringing the DG into the approvals process to improve 110 km of irrigation infrastructure
- Conducted vocational training for vulnerable groups such as women, refugees and the physically disabled in remote and volatile districts



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Paktya Province

- Improved district road networks and provided unskilled cash-for-work opportunities through low-tech, labor intensive improvements in Jani Kheyl District, resulting in 12,600 verified days of employment
- Constructed 3.4 km of asphalt road in district centers in Chamkani Bazaar and Gardez City
- Assessed the environment for economic development in major population centers through the provision of a bazaar assessment
- Repaired 15.7 km of tertiary road in Gardez District to improve local transportation
- Improved interaction between communities and the district government in Sayid Karam District by bringing the district governor into the planning and approval process to improve 3.61 km of community-based irrigation infrastructure
- Carried out a cash-for-work activity to rehabilitate two key roads and provide temporary employment for 250 local fighting age males in Jaji District
- Improved security at district schools by constructing 764 meters of boundary walls at schools selected by the Department of Education
- Helped 15,000 people through community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment
- Helped 155 war affected families through the delivery of small business, shelter, and assistance standard kits